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This is an important week for two West European governments that have supported US security policies:

- In Belgium the Martens government is expected to announce on Friday its INF deployment decision. That decision is expected to be positive, which would allow the initial GLCM deployments to take place in March on schedule. But there is also the risk that the Flemish wing of the ruling Christian Democrats will revolt against the decision and bring down the government, an event which would for all practical purposes kill any chances of deployment in Belgium. To minimize this risk, Martens has maneuvered very carefully in the past two months and may temper a March deployment decision by simultaneously announcing that the follow-on deployment, now scheduled for the middle of 1986, will hinge on the state of arms control negotiations.
- In West Germany, the FDP meets in Saarbruecken this coming weekend to elect Economics Minister Bangermann Party Chairman in place of Gensher. The smoothness of the transition and the ability of the party to reburnish its national image will affect its chances in two provincial elections being held on 10 March and thus its prospects to survive as a viable coalition partner for the CDU